

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/949,988 10/14/97 YUNG

K PD-96315

PM82/0210

EXAMINER

PATENT DOCKET ADMINISTRATION
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DINH, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED:

02/10/00 *14*

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 08/949,988	Applicant(s) Yung et al
	Examiner T. Dinh	Group Art Unit 3644

Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 8, 1999

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on 4/12/99 is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

PETER M. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

PmP
1/18/00

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES --

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DETAILED ACTION

Upon further review and consideration the office action mailed 7/8/99 has been withdrawn in view of the following office action.

1. The proposed drawing submitted on 4/12/1999 has not been entered since it is not similar to the figure 3 of the original drawings. If the applicant wants to enter the proposed drawing, the applicant must submit it as a new drawing with "Figure 8" as a caption.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 10, it is claimed that the satellites trajectory are tilted to reorient the satellite. However, in the final paragraph of claim 1, it is claimed that the next process is "generating command signals for modifying the trajectory of the at least one desired satellite based on the tilted trajectory." This seems to be a contradiction because the step of "generating command signals..." should be before "tilting the trajectory" as claimed in line 10. How could the tilting be before the command to start initiating the tilting. Please explain. Please also note that in claim 10, the rejection is the same as described above.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-19, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Draim in view of Westerlund or Fowell

Draim discloses that a satellite constellations covering a specific geographical area but is silent on the tilting the trajectory to reorient the constellations to cover a second coverage. However, Westerlund or Fowell teaches that tilting satellites to “reorient” the satellite constellation to cover various geographical areas are well known in the art.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have tilted the trajectory of the satellite constellations of Draim as taught by Westerlund or Fowell to maximize the coverage area of the desired geographical area.

As for the determining the “period of rotation” and determining the time coverage of the constellation based on the period of rotation and the trajectory of the desired satellite, please note that these are inherent steps that one skilled in the art would take so that the desired positions of the satellite can be accomplished to prevent the satellite from being lost and to maximize the coverage.

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As for the programming of the computers on the satellite or sending command signals to the satellite and using simulations, please note that in today's day and age, these topics are well known to be used in the aerospace field.

As for the equations and the rotation matrices, please note that these are basic, inherent equations that one skilled in the art would have used to determine the period of rotations.

As for the newly added limitation of the amended claims, please note that "relative configuration" is a broad term. The interpretation of "relative configuration" here can be how the solar panels or antennas are employed with respect to the satellites. In addition relative configuration can be how it is shaped. Obviously when there is a tilt in the trajectory, the shape doesn't change, which meets the limitation of the claims.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

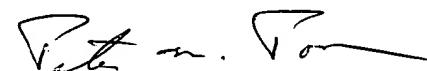
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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tien Dinh whose telephone number is (703) 308-2798. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, P. Poon, can be reached on (703) 308-2574.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.



PETER M. POON
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

T. Dinh

January 18, 2000